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Huber Opera House Curtain

Huber Opera House and Civic Center
159 East High Street
Hicksville, OH 43526

Project Duration: May–October 2004

The ICA was contracted by the Huber Opera House to conserve a large theater curtain (16 ft. x 28 ft.) from 1895, original to the building and intended for reuse in the renovated structure. The curtain had been rolled up and stored for many years in a barn with resulting severe damage, particularly to the paint layer. Large areas of paint were missing due to water damage which dissolved the tempera paint, and also due to mechanical action (abrasions, poor handling, etc.). Treatment involved removal of grime on the front and back, consolidation of the powdery paint layer, attaching a support fabric to the reverse, and extensive reconstruction of missing areas of the composition. The curtain was reinstalled by ICA staff and is now in regular use at the theater.